

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 13-15, and 19-29 are currently pending in the application. Claims 19, 21 and 27 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action has withdrawn claims 19-21 and 27-29 stating that these claims are directed to a non-elected claim. The Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses this rejection. Although the Applicant disagrees, to expedite allowance of this case, the Applicant has amended claims 19, 21 and 27 to recite an interpreter. The Applicant contends that these claims are now within the elected invention and are allowable.

The Office further rejects claims 3 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description. The Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses this rejection. Figures 3 and 4 adequately convey at least one manner for receiving and transmitting audio and visual information to dual screens and microphones. The application recites this information on page 41: "In one embodiment, the audio receiver and transmitter 30 is a microphone and the visual receiver 34 and transmitter is a camera and a screen." These features are standard type features which one reasonably skilled in the art would know how to construct such that they would operate together.

The Office further rejects claims 3 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as failing to distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. The Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the rejection. The undersigned has reviewed claims 3 and 13 and respectfully, does not understand the Office's comments. Claim 3 depends from claim 2, which recites "a plurality of user computers" and thereby provides an antecedent basis for "a first user computer and a second user computer" as recited in claim 3. Further, claim 2 recites that the "user computers are in electronic communication with each other and with the provider computer" thereby addressing the issue of the interaction between the user computers. With regard to claim 13, claim 13 does not recite the language the Office states fails to particularly point out and claim the invention. In light of the above, the Applicant respectfully requests this rejection be withdrawn.

Finally, the Office rejects claims 1, 2, 14, 15, 18, and 22-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as

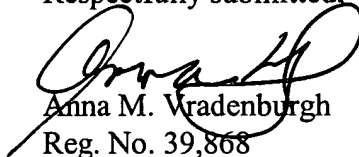
Serial No.: 10/057,131

being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,820,055 to Saindon et al. The Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the rejection.

The Applicant has amended the application to reflect the claim of priority made, and reflected in the filing receipt of this application. The claim of priority was made at the time of filing the application and was inadvertently not included in the application. The claim of priority is October 25, 2000. This date is prior to the filing date and any claim of priority in the cited art. Accordingly, this reference is not prior art against this application, and the rejection is moot.

The Applicant contends that the claims are now in allowable form and respectfully requests entry of these amendments and allowance of these claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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